XX.—*Further Notes on the Birds of the Loo-choo Islands.*

By Henry Seebohm.

Since my paper on this subject appeared (Ibis, 1887, p. 173), a second collection of birds from these islands has passed through my hands, and a valuable contribution from the able pen of Dr. Leonard Stejneger describes apparently (Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. 1886, pp. 634–651 *) the collection made by Mr. M. Namiye, which formed the bases of the list furnished to me by Mr. Pryer.

An examination of this second collection enables me to correct some of the determinations of Mr. Pryer, and to confirm some of the new species described by Dr. Stejneger, so that my previous list requires both additions and alterations.

Haliaetus pelagicus.

Mr. Pryer has sent a fine example of this noble Eagle, a species remarkable for its wedge-shaped tail, consisting of fourteen rectrices.

Scops elegans.

Megascops elegans (Cassin), Stejneger, Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. 1886, p. 639.

Scops semitorques, Seebohm, Ibis, 1887, p. 174.

Dr. Stejneger has compared an example of this bird from the Loo-choo Islands with Cassin's type in the Philadelphia Museum, and pronounces them to be identical; but he regards the species as fairly distinct from *Scops japonicus* and widely removed from *Scops glabripes*.

Ninox scutulatus.

Ninox japonicus, Seebohm, Ibis, 1887, p. 174.

Mr. Pryer has sent examples of this species from the Loo-choo Islands which agree with others from Japan and China, and are regarded by Mr. Sharpe as identical with the Indian species.

Hypsipetes amaurotis squamiceps.

Oriolus squamiceps, Kittlitz, Mém. Ac. St. Pétersbourg, Sav. Etrang., i. p. 241, pl. xvi. (1831).

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* [Dated Feb. 14, 1887.—Edd.]

Hypsipetes pryeri, Stejneger, Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. 1886, p. 642.

Hypsipetes amaurotis, Seebohm, Ibis, 1887, p. 174.

Mr. Pryer has sent an interesting series of this bird from the Loo-choo Islands. They resemble the Bonin-Island form in having the breast and flanks chestnut-brown, instead of dark grey, as in the typical race from Japan, but they agree with the latter in size. The length of wing from the carpal joint varies from 4½ to 5 inches. I have an example from Bonin Island (the only one I have seen), which is slightly larger; but until a larger series from that island has been measured, it is premature to regard the Loo-choo form as even subspecifically distinct from it. My example from Bonin Island measures 135 millimetres, and is exceeded by an example from Hakodadi, the measurement of which is given by Dr. Stejneger as 136 millimetres.

ERITHACUS NAMIYEI.

Icoturus namiyei, Stejneger, Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. 1886, p. 645.

It is very difficult to say whether the bird described by Dr. Stejneger is a stage of plumage of *E. komadori*, or a local race of that curious bird. I only know of three examples of *E. komadori* in Europe—the male and female in the Leyden Museum, and a male (a cage-bird from Japan) in my own collection, which agrees with the type and not with Dr. Stejneger's description. I entirely disagree with this writer's conclusions that this bird is not congeneric with *E. akahige* and *E. rubecula*. The wing is not more concave, nor are the nostrils removed from the frontal covering. When Dr. Stejneger lays stress upon the strong superficial resemblance between his *Icoturi* and some of the Formicariidæ, remarking that "should colour count for more than structure, then *Icoturus* would come very close to *Myrmeciza longipes* from Panama," he must surely forget that the Formicariidæ are known to have a different form of larynx and a different arrangement of its muscles. The Loo-choo *E. namiyei* is said to differ from its Corean ally in three points: the flanks are uniform ash-grey instead of black, margined with white on the upper flanks; the under wing-coverts are ash-grey, margined on the outer web with rufous orange, instead of black margined with white; and the axillaries are uniform ash-grey, instead of white with dark centres.

PERICROCOTUS TEGIMÆ.

Pericrocotus tegimæ, Stejneger, Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. 1886, p. 648.

Pericrocotus cantonensis?, Seebohm, Ibis, 1887, p. 176.

This appears to be a very good species, differing from *P. cinereus* in having the white on the forehead confined to a narrow streak from each eye, meeting along the base of the upper mandible, in being much darker on the upper parts, in having a broad grey band across the breast, and in being smaller in size.

Dr. Stejneger separates the Japanese bird as *P. japonicus* from the South-Siberian *P. cinereus*, on the ground that in the former the back is darker, and the black of the head extends to the mantle. I have both forms from Hongkong, and regard the variations as individual (not as geographical), and as probably dependent upon age.

HIRUNDO NAMIYEI.

Chelidon namiyei, Stejneger, Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. 1886, p. 646.

Hirundo javanica?, Seebohm, Ibis, 1887, p. 176.

It is scarcely probable that this Swallow is more than subspecifically distinct from *H. javanica*, from which it appears only to differ in size—the length of wing from carpal joint being 4·6 inches, instead of 4 to 4·4 inches. It is said to be green instead of blue on the upper parts; but this is also the case with examples from Ceylon, Borneo, and Lombock.

ZOSTEROPS SIMPLEX.

Zosterops japonica, Seebohm, Ibis, 1887, p. 176.

A series of examples sent by Mr. Pryer agree exactly with the type of the species described by Swinhoe from South China, except that they very slightly exceed it in dimensions. *Z. subrosea*, from Sechuen, of which the type is also in my collection, appears to me to be absolutely identical with it. On the other hand, *Z. japonica*, with its pale chestnut-brown flanks and sides of breast, and *Z. palpebrosa*, with its much yellower-green upper parts, appear to me to be quite distinct.

It is interesting to know that the Loo-choo species is identical with that from South China, Hainan, and Formosa, but differs from both its Japanese and its Philippine-Island representatives.

PASSER MONTANUS.

Passer saturatus, Stejneger, Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. 1886, p. 19.

Mr. Pryer has sent a number of examples of the Loo-choo Tree Sparrow, which does not differ from the European bird in any respect.

CARPOPHAGA JOUYI.

Ianthœnas jouyi, Stejneger, American Naturalist, 1887, p. 583.

Mr. Pryer has sent several examples of this fine Pigeon. It is nearly allied to *C. ianthina*, but differs from it in having the plumage bronzed with green instead of reddish purple, and in having a white collar across the upper mantle.

TRERON FORMOSA.

Treron permagna, Stejneger, Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. 1886, p. 637.

Treron sieboldi, Seebohm, Ibis, 1887, p. 179.

An example sent by Mr. Pryer agrees exactly with females from Formosa in the Swinhoe collection. Dr. Stejneger is quite right in supposing that Swinhoe described his species incorrectly: *primary-coverts* should read *greater wing-coverts*, as he suggests; the only other feathers with pale margins being the secondaries. There still remains the difference in the tail. In Pryer's bird the tail measures $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and is not graduated to the extent of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch; Swinhoe's bird has a tail $4\frac{7}{8}$ inches, graduated to the extent of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; whilst Dr. Stejneger's bird has a tail 6 inches long, graduated to the extent of $\frac{7}{8}$ inch. This looks like individual variation rather than specific or subspecific difference. *T. sororius* is more nearly allied to *T. sieboldi,* and can scarcely be regarded as more than subspecifically distinct from it, if, indeed, a large series of each would not prove them to be absolutely identical. The nearly terminal black band across the outer tail-feathers is very obscure in the Japanese form, and nearly obsolete in the Formosan race.

XXI.—*On the Arctic Form of the Nutcracker,* Nucifraga caryocatactes. By Henry Seebohm.

Many birds the range of which extends across the Palæarctic Region vary in size, form, or colour in different parts of their distribution, but the extreme forms being connected in the intervening districts by intermediate examples, can only be regarded as subspecifically distinct. The subspecific groups, being only partially isolated, are consequently only partially differentiated. The geographical distribution of these subspecies varies in a rather curious manner, according to the migratory habits of the birds. If the range of migration extends beyond the Himalayas, the tendency is to form an Eastern and a Western race, the individuals comprising the former breeding in the East Palæarctic Region and wintering in the Oriental or Australian Region; whilst those of the latter breed in the West Palæarctic Region and winter in the Ethiopian Region or in the basin of the Mediterranean. The Eastern and Western races of the Curlew, *Numenius arquata* and *N. arquata lineata*; of the Whimbrel, *Numenius phæopus* and *N. phæopus variegatus*; of the Bar-tailed Godwit, *Limosa rufa* and *L. rufa uropygialis*; and of the Black-tailed Godwit, *Limosa melanura* and *L. melanura melanuroides,* are excellent examples of this kind of subspecific form. On the other hand, if the range of migration be very local, extending longitudinally only to the adjoining valleys and restricted latitudinally to the Palæarctic Region, a quite different result is produced. Instead of an Eastern and a Western form, we find a Northern and a Southern race,